(c) The decision to extradite Mr. Milosevic was taken by a foreign government. The Government of India was not involved in the interaction between the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at The Hague.

Impact of National Missile Defence System

2645. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's assessment of the impact on world peace of the US announcement of National Missile Defence System in the counter of identification of 'rogue countries' like Iraq and North Korea and its obvious rivalry with the Nuclear Power of China;

(b) whether Government see in this move an attempt to start "the Star-Wars" of the cold war era; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken by Government in the light of these moves for establishing world peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) The US plans on a "new strategic framework' comprising four elements, namely, non-proliferation, counter proliferation, missile defence, and a reduction in US strategic nuclear forces, seek to transform the strategic parameters on which the Cold War security architecture was build. Government, while welcoming the announcement to reduce US nuclear forces, conveyed appreciation for the US intention to continue close consultations with its allies, friends and other interested countries. It is India's expectation that the US would continue to be guided by the spirit of dialogue, consultation and cooperation in this process. India has also conveyed its expectation to the US that it would pursue its plans in a manner that enhances regional and international stability and security.

Indo-China discussions to resolve border disputes

2646. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from India and China held their ninth round of discussion to clarify key portion of Sino-Indian Border;

(b) whether the differences on the middle sector (Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh) have been sorted out in disucssions;

(c) when and where the next round of discussion is scheduled to be held; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) The 9th Meeting of the India-China Expert Group of Diplomats and Military Officials was held in New Delhi on June 28, 2001. The two sides exchanged views on the maps depicting the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as perceived by the two sides respectively in the Middle Sector of the India-China boundary. The maps of the LAC in the Middle Sector were exchanged in Beijing in November 2000 at the 8th Meeting of the Expert Group. Both sides re-affirmed their intention to proceed with the process of confirmation and clarification of the LAC on the basis of the 1993 agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the LAC in the India-China border areras. the next meeting of the Expert Group is expected to be held later this year.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

2647. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government continue to maintain its opposition to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a flawed and discriminated treaty and that lasting non-proliferation can only be achieved through total disarmament; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government's position on this issue is contained in External Affairs Minister's *suo motu* statement in Paliament on 9 May 2000. A copy is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

SUO MOTU Statement by the Minister of External Affairs on the NPT review conference

The sixth Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference is currently taking place in New York. Consistent with our policy India is not attending the Conference.

2. Since independence India has been a strong proponent of global nuclear disarmament and has taken numerous initiatives towards this objective. We remain committed to nuclear non-proliferation. India holds that genuine and lasting non-proliferation can only be achieved through agreements that are based upon equality and non-discrimation, for only these can contribute to global peace and stability.

3. In 1995, the NPT was extended indefinitely and unconditionally. Hon'ble Members would be aware that 187 countries are today parties to the NPT. The proponents of NPT cite these developments as evidence of NPTs success; yet, it is also clear that there exist strong differences even among the NPT States Parties. Three of the five